(c) The Central Government does not maintain State-wise data related to items of exports from various States.

(d) Ministry of Commerce has implemented a new scheme called "ASIDE" (Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities) from 2001-2002, to assist States in development of export infrastructure. In addition to this, exporters from the States are eligible to access Market Development Assistance and Market Access Initiative for appropriate assistance.

Amendment of the Patent Act

4999. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association has demanded an amendment to the Patent Act to meet national emergencies; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to take advantage of the DOHA declaration of WTO to promote access to medicines to all at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Some of the major Indian drug companies, through their associations, have made representations on various issues relating to proposed amendments in the Indian Patent Law including those relating to compulsory licensing in the light of the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health. The Patents Act, 1970 read with the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 as reported by the Joint Committee of Parliament, contains adequate provisions for safeguarding national interest and public health including those relating to dealing with circumstances of national emergency and ensuring availability of medicines at affordable prices.

Demand of Indian cardamom

5000. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for Indian cardamom in international market has increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether production of cardamom is keeping pace with its demand in the domestic and international market;

(c) if so, the production of cardamom during the last two years;

(d) whether the cardamom growers have been getting remunerative price for their produce; and